

Representative Terri Austin

Provides information on
The State of Indiana's Amber Plan

AMBER ALERT

Amber Alert Plan is a statewide notification program to help locate abducted and endangered children within the first 24-hours which are the most critical hours in an abduction.



The Amber Plan was started in July 1997 to help safely recover missing children that police believe have been abducted. The Association of Radio Managers in Dallas, Texas, created the program in memory of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was abducted and murdered in 1996.

The goal of the Amber Plan is safe recovery of missing children that a law enforcement agency believes have been abducted and are in danger of serious harm or death. Since 1997, more than 40 other Amber Plan programs have been adopted or modified at local, regional and statewide levels.

In Indiana, the Amber Alert Plan is a statewide notification program utilizing the power of free, over-the-air electronic media as the best way to quickly reach Indiana citizens who may have information leading to the return of a missing or abducted child. Through the Indiana Amber Alert Plan, listeners and viewers will become the eyes and ears for police, and hopefully aid in the return of the child.

Each city or state's Amber Plan program establishes its own criteria, activation procedures, and distribution methods and is administered separately in accordance with Emergency Alert System procedures approved by the FCC.

For example, the Indiana Amber Alert Plan has four Alert criteria:

- The child must be under 18 years of age
- The child must be believed to be abducted, and in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There must be enough descriptive information to believe the broadcast will help.
- Request must be recommended by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.

For further information on Indiana's Amber Plan, please visit www.amberalertindiana.com.

If Your Child Is Missing

1. Immediately call or go to your local law enforcement agency.

2. Bring the most recent color photograph of the child, along with the child's DNA Kit (available at the nearest Indiana State Police Post) or fingerprints, hair sample, blood type and physical description, including a description of the clothes the child was wearing.

3. Report the child missing to the toll-free hotline of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678.

Important Information from Representative Terri Austin



Tips to Prevent Abduction

The best prevention is for you and your children to be informed and aware:

- Teach your children their full name, address and phone number.
- Teach your children how to make a long distance call (both directly to you using the area code and by dialing "0" for operator).
- Know the routes your child takes to and from school, friends' homes and other activities.
- Be involved in your child's activities by volunteering at school, clubs and sporting events.
- Participate in a neighborhood watch program.
- Before leaving your child in the care of a day-care, preschool, baby-sitter or youth organization, check their references and qualifications. Ask if they conduct pre-employment background checks.
- Teach your child what to do if approached by a stranger. Common approaches are offering a ride, gifts or candy, asking the child to help them look for a lost pet, or claiming that the child's parent has asked them to bring the child home because of an emergency.
- Listen to your child; don't disregard their fears. Instead, let them know you take their fears and concerns seriously.

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